

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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P 301015Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 389

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 3733

EXDIS

FOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY

SUBJ: HABIB VISIT TO MALAYSIA: REQUEST FOR ARMS SALES

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3059

1. MFA UNDERSECRETARY KHOR ENG HEE CALLED ME IN TODAY (JUN 30) FOR "FOLLOW UP TO HABIB VISIT." HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE US TO SEND "AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE" THE MISSION SUGGESTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE GOM PURCHASE OF M-16'S, APC'S AND ELECTRONIC SENSING DEVICES. THEY WOULD PREFER THAT ANY PURCHASE BE ON "AS EASY TERMS AS POSSIBLE." THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF MISSION WAS UP TO US BUT IT SHOULD BE "VERY QUIET." THE GOM WOULD GIVE NO RPT NO PUBLICITY TO THE VISIT AND WISHED US TO DO THE SAME. IF WORD GOT OUT THAT AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICERS WERE HERE OR WERE COMING, IT COULD PROBABLY BE PASSED OFF AS A "ROUTINE FAMILIARIZATION VISIT." IN ANY CASE HE COULD GUARANTEE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE MALAYSIAN PRESS.

2. I ASKED IF HE WERE SURE THAT THE THREE ITEMS MENTIONED WERE ALL THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED. FOR EXAMPLE, I RECALLED THAT HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP. KHOR SAID THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WHICH CAME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WERE LIMITED TO THE THREE ITEMS. HE ADDED THAT THE PM

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WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ELECTRONIC DEVICES THAT

COULD ASSIST IN THE LOCATION OF LAND MINES. I TOLD HIM I
WOULD REPORT THE GOM'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY.

3. THE GOM IS READY TO TALK SPECIFICS NOW. M-16 IS CLEAR
ENOUGH. WE WILL NEED, HOWEVER, SOMEBODY WHO CAN DISCUSS
CHARACTERISTICS OF APC'S AND SENSING DEVICES AT EXPETR
LEVEL SO GOM CAN DETERMINE WHAT IT WANTS. REQUEST
THAT APPROPRIATE GROUP BE DISPATCHED. RECOMMEND THAT IT
BE ONLY TWO OR THREE PEOPLE.
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